Saskatchewan
Ministry of
Agriculture

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All stated cattle prices are based on the weekly Canfax Market Outlook and Summary.
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Cattle Market Update

For the Week Ending May 17, 2013

All prices are quoted in Canadian dollars per hundredweight ($/cwt) unless otherwise stated.

Feeder Cattle

Steers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	137-160	148.50	-
400-500	142-165	149.25	+2.05
500-600	136-156	146.38	-2.56
600-700	132-150	140.34	+0.54
700-800	121-139	129.63	+0.23
800-900	115-127	121.50	+2.50
900+	110-119	114.50	-0.81

Heifers

	Range	Average	Change from last week
300-400	117-141	123.17	-4.58
400-500	121-148	129.67	-3.21
500-600	121-142	128.00	-0.88
600-700	114-130	120.93	-1.20
700-800	107-122	116.38	+1.28
800+	102-115	110.50	+2.42

Source: Canfax.
Note: Prices are determined from Saskatchewan auction marts' reports of sale results from Thursday of the previous week to Thursday of the current week.

Canfax reported that 9,637 head of cattle were sold in Saskatchewan this week, up from 9,476 head marketed during the previous week.

Feeder cattle prices were mixed over the week. Average prices for feeder steers ranged from $2.50 per cwt higher to $2.56 per cwt lower. Prices were mixed over the different weight classes. Feeder steers in the 500 to 600 lb weight class and 900+ weight class were lower while feeder steers in the other weight classes were higher.

Prices for feeder heifers below 700lb. were $0.88 to $4.58 per cwt lower while prices for feeder heifers weighing more than 700 lb. were $1.28 to $2.42 per cwt higher, compared to the previous week. The lighter weight feeder heifers had the largest losses over the week.

The Saskatchewan 750 lb. feeder steer basis compared to the May 16, 2013 U.S. feeder cattle index at US$135.40 per cwt was calculated at -$9.71 per cwt (US$135.40/0.9717 - $129.63), a basis widening of $3.25 per cwt from -$6.46 per cwt the previous week.

On Friday, May 17, 2013, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the monthly *Cattle on Feed Report* for May 1, 2013.

May 1, 2013, Cattle on Feed (in U.S. feedlots with 1,000+ capacity)			
	2012	2013	Per cent of previous year
On feed April 1	11,482,000	10,909,000	95
Placed during April	1,521,000	1,750,000	115
Marketed during April	1,815,000	1,885,000	102
Other disappearance during April	78,000	69,000	88
On feed May 1	11,110,000	10,735,000	97

Source: USDA

The current USDA Cattle on Feed (COF) report indicated that cattle on feed numbers for May 1, 2013 were 10.735 million head, down 3.4 per cent from 11.110 million head on May 1, 2012, and down 1.6 per cent from 10.909 million head on April 1, 2013. The number of cattle placed on feed in April 2013 was up 15.0 per cent while the number of fed cattle marketed in April was up 2.2 per cent, compared to April 2012. The average trade estimates of April placements at 112.1 per cent and cattle on feed (May 1) at 96.3 per cent were lower than the USDA numbers.

Fed and Non-fed Cattle

	May 17	**May 10**	**Change**
Cows (Alberta)			
D1,2 Live	79.20	78.86	+0.34
D3 Live	70.17	69.94	+0.23
Rail	151.00-156.00	151.00-156.00	0.00

Source: Canfax.

Prices for liveweight, non-fed cattle in Alberta were slightly higher from the previous week with D1,2 slaughter cows increasing $0.34 per cwt to average $79.20 per cwt, while D3 slaughter cows increased $0.23 per cwt to average $70.17 per cwt. The number of slaughter cows in Western Canada continues to be higher than year ago numbers. Fed cattle prices in Western Canada were relatively stable with the price of fed steers in Alberta reported at $119.48 per cwt, up slightly from $119.41 per cwt the previous week.

The live (FOB feedlot) weighted average 5-area (Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Iowa/Minnesota) weekly fed steer price in the U.S. was reported at US$125.38 per cwt, down US$0.86 per cwt from US$126.24 per cwt the previous week. The dressed (delivered basis) price for U.S. steers delivered to plants in the 5-area was reported at US$200.72 per cwt, a decrease of US$1.66 per cwt from US$202.38 per cwt the previous week.

The weekly average Choice beef cutout values (Choice 600-900 lb.) for the week ending May 17 US$207.49 per cwt, up 2.1 per cent from US$203.32 per cwt. the previous week. The weekly average Choice cutout values hit new all-time highs this week (from last week) and were well above the psychologically important US$200 per cwt threshold.

U.S. beef production for the week ending May 18 was estimated at 507.0 million lb., up 2.9 per cent from 492.9 million lb. during the previous week, and up 1.0 per cent from 502.1 million lb. a year ago. U.S. weekly cattle slaughter numbers totaled 652,000 head, up 3.3 per cent from 631,000 head the previous week, and up from 644,000 head the same week a year ago.

Weekly corn cash prices moved higher over the week. Corn futures were mixed with the July and September contacts higher while the December contract was lower. Feeder cattle futures moved lower with the May to October feeder future contracts declining US$1.475 per cwt to US$3.250 per cwt, week-over-week. Live cattle futures were also lower with the June to October contracts decreasing US$1.050 per cwt to US$1.950 per cwt, week-over-week.

Friday Price Information

Product		This Week (May 17)	Week of: (May 10)
Canadian Dollar (closing rate US$)		.9717	.9889
United States Dollar Index		84.212	83.153
U.S. Cash Cattle			
Thurs. Feeder Cattle (FC) Index (US$ per cwt)		135.40	134.35
Seven-day Weighted Average FC Index Wt. (lb.)		758	775
Live Fed 5-area Steer Price (US$ per cwt)		125.38	126.24
Feed Grains			
Barley	Lethbridge ($/tonne)	294.00	293.00
	($ per bu.)	6.40	6.38
Corn	Iowa State Average (CDN$/tonne)*	281.98	269.91
	(US$ per bu.)	6.96	6.78
	Omaha, NE (CDN$/tonne)*	284.41	275.88
	(US$ per bu.)	7.02	6.93
Futures			
	July Corn (US$ per bu.)	6.52¾	6.36¼
	Sept. Corn (US$ per bu.)	5.56	5.54½
	June Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	119.400	120.450
	August Live Cattle (US$ per cwt)	118.550	120.775
	May Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	133.900	135.375
	October Feeder Cattle (US$ per cwt)	147.800	150.750

Sources: Bank of Canada, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), ICE Futures Canada and USDA Livestock & Grain Market News
* conversion to CDN$ is based on Friday's CDN$ closing rate

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